

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application, with Claims 1-3 and 8-15 being independent.

Claims 1-3 and 8-15 are amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. Support for the amendments may be found generally throughout the specification and drawings, and in particular, at page 8, line 16 through page 9, line 8, page 14, lines 11 through 19, and Figures 2 and 3.

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 are rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,801,935, hereinafter *Shen*.

Claims 1 and 2 define combinations of features including transmission of image data and a password to a designated printer, and transmission of the password to a designated addressee by E-mail. If the password transmitted by E-mail is entered into the printer and the password entered into the printer matches the password transmitted together with the image data, printing is performed on the basis of the image data. That is, the image data and the password are transmitted to a designated printer, and the password without the image data and E-mail are transmitted to a designated E-mail address. The password is then entered into the printer and the two passwords are compared.

Shen discloses secured printing using an electronic mailbox. That is, as shown in Fig. 5 and described beginning in column 4, line 57 of *Shen*, a user first selects the "print to mailbox" option. Next, a user interface is displayed and the intended E-mail address is inputted. The print job is placed in an appropriate format

and an E-mail message is created that includes the print job, a user ID PIN and an optional security code. Finally, the E-mail message including the print job is sent to the inputted E-mail address. If a security code is included, the user is prompted to enter such (S809 in Fig. 8). Only upon entering the correct security code, will the user be permitted to print the print job. That is, the print job, ID PIN, and security code are sent to one location, i.e., to an e-mail address. *Shen* does not teach sending an e-mail without image data to an addressee that includes a password that is specified in connection with the image data.

The rejection of Claim 1 is deficient at least because *Shen* does not disclose the claimed subject matter relating to transmitting image data and a password to a designated printer, and separately transmitting the password without the image data to the designated addressee by E-mail. Rather, *Shen* only discloses transmitting an E-mail containing the image data to the designated addressee.

Shen discloses sending an E-mail along with image data to a user's E-mail address. The user accesses the print job in the E-mail with a security code, and then has the option of printing the print job on a printer. *Shen* does not disclose sending the print job and a password to a printer and sending an E-mail with the password without the image data to a designated E-mail address. As a result of the present invention, the image data is transmitted in a secure manner with a minimal burden on the addresser.

Claims 3 and 9 define combinations of features including subject matter relating to transmitting image data to an image data receiving device and transmitting a set password without the image data by an E-mail to an address corresponding to a device other than the image data receiving device. Claim 10

defines a combination of features including subject matter relating to transmission of image data to an image forming device and transmission of a set password without the image data to an address of an E-mail. Claims 11 and 12 define subject matter relating to transmission of image data to a first device and transmitting a set password without the image data by an E-mail to a second device. Claim 13 defines subject matter relating to transmission of image data and a password to a designated printer and transmission of the password without the image data to a designated addressee by E-mail. Claim 14 defines subject matter relating to transmitting image data to a designated printer and transmitting certification information without image data to a designated addressee via and E-mail. Claim 15 defines subject matter relating to transmission of certification information without image data to an addressee at a first computer via E-mail and inputting the certification information to a designated printer.

As noted above, *Shen* only discloses transmission of the image data together with a PIN and optionally a password. For at least that reason, the rejections of Claims 3 and 9-15 over *Shen* should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shen*. Claim 5 depends from Claim 1. As the rejection of Claim 5 does not remedy the deficiencies in the rejection of Claim 1, the rejection of Claim 5 should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons.

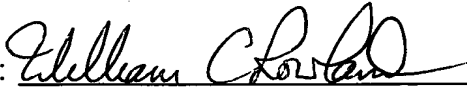
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully urged to find Claims 1-15 to be in condition for allowance.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: 3-27-06

By: 
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620